U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of JOSEPH F. BLASS <u>and</u> DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES, Washington, DC

Docket No. 00-315; Submitted on the Record; Issued January 24, 2001

DECISION and ORDER

Before WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, BRADLEY T. KNOTT, PRISCILLA ANNE SCHWAB

The issue is whether appellant met his burden of proof to establish that he sustained a condition or disability causally related to his federal employment.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of the parties on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that the decision of the hearing representative of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated and finalized July 15, 1999 is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the Office hearing representative.

The decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated and finalized July 15, 1999 is affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC January 24, 2001

> Willie T.C. Thomas Member

Bradley T. Knott Alternate Member

Priscilla Anne Schwab Alternate Member